



Board of Social Work Examiners

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Karen Richards, Chair – Stanley E. Weinstein, Executive Director

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2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 730
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: State Board of Social Work Examiners – Sunset Extension

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill, as written, would continue the State Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) in accordance with the provision of Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) by extending the Board’s existence to July 1, 2027.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports SB 730 with an amendment.

The Board renews licenses every two years. There are currently 17,578 active, licensed social workers in Maryland. About 2/3 (11,241) of the licensees are licensed as clinical social workers (LCSW-C). Another 1/3 are licensed as graduate social workers (LMSW), many of whom are working toward the LCSW-C credential. Many of the LMSWs and the 320 certified social workers (LCSWs) are practicing generalist or macro social work in a variety of roles throughout our state. We also license social workers at the bachelor’s level and have 438 LBSWs. The passing of this bill will ensure the continuation of the Board’s mission to protect the public from unlicensed and potentially incompetent, unethical social work practice and to promote quality of care in the fields of mental health, child welfare, aging, and many others. The Board accomplishes these objectives by providing licenses to those who meet the statutory requirements, regulating the licensees, overseeing the continuing education process and engaging in the discipline of applicants and licensees when necessary.

The Board supports SB 730 with amendment and respectfully asks to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board, to the following:

Amendment 1

Page 2, line 3: Strike **2027** and insert **2034**.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The Board of Social Work Examiners respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 730 with amendment.

If you require additional information, please contact Dr. Daphne McClellan, Executive Director at (410) 764-4722 or at Daphne.McClellan@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.